

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2002
EOB 12th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Ronald Ogens, Chair
Commissioner Paul Sterling
District Chief John Gallo (Atl)
Chief Craig Baker (Alt.)
Assistant Chief Randy Wheeler

OTHERS PRESENT

Chief David Dwyer, DVFRS
Asst. Chief
Asst. Chief Roger McGary, DFRS
Nick Venuto, Local 1664
Neil Shorb, MCFRS
George Giebel, MCFRS
Beth Feldman, MCFRS
Annette Cheng, MCFRS
Connie Robinson, MCFRS

Call to Order – Chair Ogens

The Operations Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Ogens at 7:30 am. in the EOB 12th Floor Conference Room.

Commissioner Ogens acknowledged new committee members of the Operations Committee. Assistant Chief Randy Wheeler, DFRS has replaced Assistant Chief Guercio and Chief Craig Baker, BVFD has replaced Deputy Chief Mike Kelley of the Sandy Spring VFD as the alternate.

Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2002

A MOTION was made by Assistant Chief Wheeler to approve the Operations Committee minutes from the January 27, 2002 meeting. SECONDED by Chief Baker. PASSED unanimously.

Truck 2 Status

At the January 27, 2002 Operations Committee Meeting, A letter was received from Lt. Jones of the TPVFD that the truck 2 is now equipped with the minimum inventory required for extrication designation, and to make appropriate changes.

Commissioner Ogens requested Chief Dwyer to follow up with Chief Jarboe from the TPVFD regarding the intent of this letter.

Chief Dwyer contacted Chief Jarboe of the TPVFD on January 24, 2002 regarding this issue. Chief Jarboe indicated that the request from Lt. Jones did not originate from the TPVFD.

Commissioner Ogens stated that the Operations Committee will take no action on this issue, unless a request is received from the TPVFD.

Aerial Unit Study

At the November 28, 2001 Operations Committee meeting, a motion was made to send the *Aerial Unit Study Report* to the Commission and to adopt as goals several recommendations from this study. At the December 13, 2001 Fire and Rescue Commission meeting, Assistant Chief Guercio requested the FRC defer action on the report and to refer this report back to the Operations Committee for further review. The Operations Committee was presented with a letter from Fire Administrator Aoyagi regarding his comments and recommendations of this study and the agenda item 401 w/ attachments from the December 13, 2001 FRC commission meeting for discussion. Neil Shorb spoke on behalf of the Fire Administrator and expressed the Administrator's position that the Operations Committee considers the fiscal and policy impacts for each recommendation prior to submitting the report back to the FRC for action.

Commissioner Ogens suggested the Operations Committee review each recommendation and staff comments from the *Aerial Unit Study Report* and take a straw vote for each recommendation followed by a final vote ratifying the straw votes.

Recommendations #1: *The MCFRS should evaluate aerial unit response times and utilized the data for either validate or disprove the RAND model used in planning*

Neil Shorb states that the Fire Administrator supports this recommendation, using the RAND model as it applies to deployment of aerial unit resources. The RAND model will continue to be utilized to assist in determining station locations.

Commissioner Ogens questioned who would implement this study.

Chief Carr questioned if the RAND model is applicable in rural area.

Operation Committee straw vote: Concurs with this recommendation.

Recommendation #2: *The FRC should establish aerial unit response time goals for urban, suburban, and rural area of the county.*

It was agreed to delete the reference to NFPA 1710 in the staff comments and substitute "All applicable industry standards."

Operations Committee: straw vote: The nine (9) minute response time goal for aerial units should be evaluated to determine if the percentage goal for compliance is based on an appropriate service level to mitigate hazardous situations.

Recommendation #3: *Aerial units and rescue squads should not have a "combined" response time goal as "special service" unit.*

The Operations Committee concurs that the role and responsibility of aerials and rescue squads are substantially different and support this recommendations.

Operations Committee: Support this recommendation.

Recommendation #4: *Specific response time goals for "rescue service" be developed.*

Operations Committee: **straw vote: This issue should be addressed in the Rescue Squad Report.**

Recommendation #5: *Quint 51, when deployed at NIH, should operate under the mutual aid agreement in force.*

Operations Committee: **straw vote: Concurs with recommendation.**

Recommendation #6: The workgroup finds that aerial ladder deployments initiated in the 1993 report on the "Assignment of Aerial Units in Montgomery County" remains the optimal aerial unit deployment for a 14 aerial/1 quint fleet.

Operations Committee: straw vote: Concurs with recommendation.

Recommendation #7: Aerial unit deployment form FS5 is not required in the current fleet deployment.

Neil Shorb advised that the Administrator concurs with this recommendation;

There was extensive discussion regarding tax support to operate Truck 5, and the potential for this unit to be available for use as a county-wide reserve unit.

Operation Committee: straw vote: Concurs with recommendation. Conditions for future tax support should be explored with the KVFD.

Recommendation #8: Aerial unit service deployed from FS1 is not required in the current fleet deployment.

Operations Committee: straw vote: Concur with this recommendation.

Recommendation #9: A team of MCFRS representatives should visit departments that have already utilized "All-Steer" aerial units to evaluate maintenance, training, and operational characteristics for these units.

Operations Committee: straw vote: The committee did not concur with this recommendation. This information can be obtained from the vendor and contact with departments utilizing these units.

Recommendation #10: "All Steer" AT6 should undergo an 18 month evaluation period from the date the unit is placed in service. The evaluation period should provided data on complexity of driver training, operations, reliability and maintenance.

Operations Committee: Concur with this recommendation. The Aerial Truck Study group and Apparatus Specifications Committee group to conduct the evaluation and report back to the Operations Committee and the Fire Administrator with its findings

Recommendation #11: Additional "All-Steer" aerals should not be purchased to replace tractor/trailer aerial units until this evaluation is complete and the MCFRS analysis and experience indicated that 'All-Steer' technology should be incorporated system-wide, and is as effective as tractor/trailer apparatus.

Operations Committee: straw vote: Concur with recommendation. Footnote to appear regarding procurement issues.

Recommendation #12: MCFRS should develop a plan to implement full aerial service to the Olney/Sandy Spring region of the County, deployed from Station 40.

Commissioner Carr thought that there would be a policy impact because it would effect the size of the fleet.

Operations Committee: straw vote: Concur that full aerial service should be eventually established in the Olney/Sandy Spring area, and that this is an appropriate goal of the MCFRS.

Recommendation #13: MCFRS should begin the implementation process for aerial unit service in the Damascus Region of the County, deployed from Station 13.

Operations Committee: (Same language as above; insert Damascus).

Recommendation #14: The workgroup believes that the ideal deployment of aerial units would result in the dispatch of an aerial ladder and an aerial tower on most box alarms, achieved with an integrated fleet of 50% aerial ladders and 50% aerial towers.

Operations Committee: straw vote: Concur that this recommendation should be a goal with the understanding that flexibility should also be a consideration.

Recommendation #15: MCFRS should evaluate future procurement on one aerial tower capable of top boom articulation.

Operations Committee: straw vote: Concurs that the feasibility of procuring such a unit be explored.

Recommendation #16: The reserve aerial fleet should consist of 7 readily available units. Two units should be dedicated to the long term replacement of front line units. Three units should be fully equipped and ready for rapid replacement of front line units. Two reserve units should remain unequipped, intended for planned replacement of front line units.

Commissioner Ogens asked if the Fiscal Impact cost are based on annual figures, answer yes

Operations Committee: straw vote: Concurs that the existing aerial fleet needs to be increased as recommended in the report.

Recommendation #17: Aerial units in Montgomery County should be staffed with 4 personnel

Revised second sentence to read: "The MCFRS should develop a plan to move towards 4 person staffing on aeriels, taking into account applicable national standards, 2in-2out, and other industry standards.

Revised third sentence to read:" This staffing goal should be advocated given other competing demands for resources such as new stations. This may require the MCFRS to identify options to reallocated available and existing resources".

Operations Committee: Concurs that this staffing level is an approximate goal for the MCFRS.

Recommendation #18: All staffing options should be explored to achieve recommendation 17, including methods to attract volunteer participation to specifically provide aerial unit staffing.

Operations Committee: Concur with recommendation as a goal for the MCFRS.

Recommendation #19: The MCFRS should determine the number of special services units (i.e. trucks and squads) that are required in the County

Commissioner Ogens requests the wording in Recommendation #19 to read The MCFRS should continue the process of determining the number of special service units (i.e. trucks and squads) that are required in the County.

Operations Committee: straw vote: Concur with the recommendation with the clarification of the recommendation be revised to state: "The MCFRS should continue the process of determining the number of special service units (i.e. trucks and rescue squads) that are required in the County."

Recommendation #20: The workgroup believes that an integration of properly staffed engines/trucks/rescue squads provide he optimal strategic and tactical operation in Montgomery County and does not support this quint concept.

Operations Committee: Does not concur with this recommendation. The elimination of the quint concept is premature at this time.

Recommendation #21: All aerial units should carry a thermal imaging camera.

Operations Committee: straw vote: Concur with recommendation to be established all trucks (except truck 5) are equipped with WASADS as a goal.

Recommendation #22 *All aerial units should carry a warning and strobe alarm devices (WASAD)*

Operations Committee: straw vote: To recommend that the MCFRS consider the purchase of these additional WASADS if WMATA can not fund purchase.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to adopt straw votes taken regarding the recommendations of the Aerial Unit Study as amended, and to forward the report back to the FRC at the next meeting. SECOND by Randy Wheeler. PASSED unanimously.

Other Business

Commissioner Carr requested the Operations Committee present a briefing regarding the Water Implementation Supply Study at the next Operations Committee meeting.

Commissioner Ogens inquired of the status of the EMS /ALS Delivery Study.

Neil Shorb stated the Fire Administrator is in the process of finishing a proposal to restructure the committees, which may affect the EMS subcommittee. The Fire Administrator will meet with the Commissioners to discuss the proposal in detail within the next 60 days.

Commissioner Ogens requests the EMS/ALS report as an agenda item for discussion at the March 27, 2002 Operations Meeting.

A/C Guercio reported that the GIS report is available, and will meet with the subcommittee regarding the Rescue Squad Report.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to adjourn. SECONDED by District Chief Gallo. PASSED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.